



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

September 30, 2008

Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Energy, Environment and Economic Development
Room 103
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Clark:

In June 2008, the Department received a nomination for the inclusion of the Ammonoosuc River, Upper Reach (Ammonoosuc River) into the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). As proposed by the nominating organization (Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee) designation would begin with the Lakes of the Clouds in Sargents Purchase and extend to the White Mountain National Forest boundary near Lower Falls in Carroll. My review of the nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination, public comments received by the Department, and the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and the Rivers Coordinator. Based on this review and considering the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV, I have determined that designation of the Ammonoosuc River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP.

Resource Evaluation

The Ammonoosuc River received 505 points out of a maximum of 595 under the point system evaluation for river-related resources outlined in Env-Wq 1800 (Administrative Rules for the RMPP). In four of the five categories - natural resources, cultural resources, recreational resources, and other resources - the Ammonoosuc River was awarded a majority of the points available. It did not receive a majority of the points available in the managed resources category due to its lack of impoundments and hydropower facilities.

Public Comments

The RMAC and the Department held a public informational meeting and a formal public hearing in August to gain further public input on the designation of the Ammonoosuc River. To date, the Department has received twenty-one letters of support and petitions for the nomination including two from local boards of selectmen, two from planning boards, and five from conservation commissions. There was one letter of opposition from a resident of Bretton Woods and one letter of concern from the Mount Washington Resort. Throughout the process the public testimony and letters have overwhelmingly supported the nomination.

Recommendations by the RMAC and the Rivers Coordinator

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) reviewed the nomination, conducted a site visit, and held a public hearing. The RMAC was very impressed with the level of local support for the nomination and unanimously recommended that the Ammonoosuc River be designated into the RMPP.

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

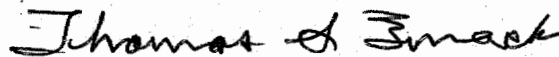
Telephone: (603) 271-2457 • Fax: (603) 271-7894 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

The Rivers Coordinator reviewed nomination materials, listened to testimony at the public hearing, received correspondence related to the nomination, and visited the river. Based on this information, the Rivers Coordinator recommended that the nomination of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program be forwarded to the General Court for consideration in the 2009 session. As the individual with primary responsibility for evaluating river nominations, the Rivers Coordinator recommends moving the nomination forward at this time, an important step in recognizing the importance of the Ammonoosuc River as a significant statewide resource.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Ammonoosuc River Nomination and a map showing the boundaries of the proposed designation. Also enclosed is a draft bill that outlines the recommended classifications for the designation of the Ammonoosuc River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Department is currently preparing a Report to the General Court specifying in greater detail the values and characteristics that qualify the Ammonoosuc River for designation. The report will be completed in time for consideration in the 2009 legislative session.

The Ammonoosuc River meets the criteria for designation and is a worthy addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program. I hereby forward the Nomination to the General Court for review and legislative approval according to RSA 483:7.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures
TSB/smc

CC: Katherine W. Peters, Special Assistant for Policy, Governor's Office
Councilor Raymond S. Burton
Senator John T. Gallus
Representative Evalyn S. Merrick
Representative Scott A. Merrick
Representative William J. Remick
Representative John E. Tholl, Jr.
Board of Selectmen Carroll
Carroll County Planning Board
Mike Walls, Assistant Commissioner, DES (via electronic mail)
Harry Stewart, Director, Water Division, DES (via electronic mail)
Paul Currier, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, DES (via electronic mail)
Charlie Ryan, Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (via electronic mail)
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)
LRMAC Chairs (via electronic mail)



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

September 30, 2008

Representative Judith Spang, Chairman
Resources, Recreation, and Development
Room 305
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Spang:

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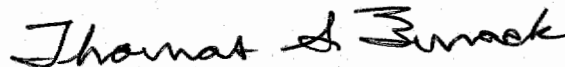
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